



Morecambe Town Council

Morecambe Town Hall,
Marine Road
Morecambe
Lancashire
LA4 5AF

www.morecambe.gov.uk
clerk@morecambe.gov.uk

Proper Officer: Mr Luke Trevaskis

24 November 2021

To: **Members of Morecambe Town Council**

Dear Councillor,

Dated this twenty-fourth day of November 2021, you are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Morecambe Town Council to be held at 18:00 on the twenty-ninth day of November 2021.

The meeting will be held in Morecambe Town Hall, Marine Road East, Morecambe, LA4 5AF to transact business on the agenda.

Note to Councillors:

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please notify the Proper Officer of your apologies.

Note to Public:

Electors of the town wishing to address the Council are advised to notify the Proper Officer before 10am on the day of the meeting. Permission to speak at the meeting will be at the discretion of the Chairman. Public participation session at a meeting shall not require response or debate and shall solely consist of matters relating to items on the agenda. If the representation made is considered outside the remit of Morecambe Town Council, electors will be referred to the principal authority or other appropriate body.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Luke Trevaskis'.

Mr Luke Trevaskis
Proper Officer

Agenda

1. **Apologies** - to receive apologies for absence.
2. **Declarations** - to note declarations of members' interests.
3. **Minutes** - to receive and confirm the minutes of previous meeting(s).
4. **Elections** - to note the results of the elections of Friday 26 November 2021 for the two vacancy seats in Heysham North Ward and Westgate Ward.
5. **Public Participation** - to receive representations from members of the public.
6. **Welcome Back Fund** - to receive an update on the Welcome Back Fund and agree actions.
7. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

The meeting is recommended to pass the following resolution:

"That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following business, on the grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A of that Act."

8. Harassment of Council Staff and Councillors

To discuss the recent harassment of council staff and councillors, oppressive correspondence, homophobic abuse, and unfounded accusations.

To consider actions taken by another authority (as detailed below) to protect staff and councillors, and agree a course of action that is appropriate.

In a recent case *Ashford Borough Council and Kerly v Fergus Wilson (2021) EWHC 2542 (QB)*, the Council sought a final anti-harassment injunction to protect staff, councillors, and agents from a campaign of harassment and intimidation from the defendant. In July 2020, the High Court granted an interim injunction restraining the defendant from pursuing a course of conduct amounting to harassment under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. Between February 2016 and July 2020, the Council's legal department recorded 454 pieces of correspondence from the defendant. The High Court judge found among other things that the defendant had engaged in a campaign of repetitive, frequent, oppressive, and offensive correspondence with the claimants, which ignored reasoned responses from the Council. The defendant's correspondence included two suggestions that a councillor should commit suicide, numerous examples of personally offensive comments about appearance, unfounded accusations of criminal conduct and professional misconduct and requests that councillors or employees should resign or be dismissed. In the circumstances the judge was satisfied that the interim injunction should be continued and converted to a permanent injunction.